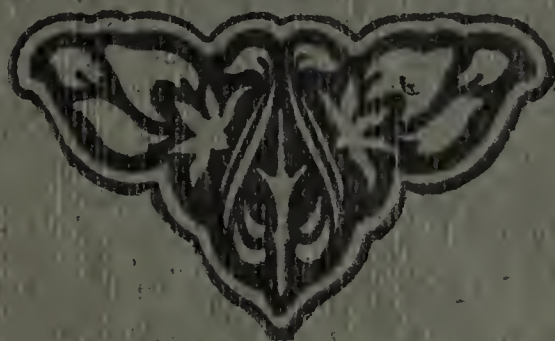


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King David's Sin



ARRANGED BY
REV. L. E. AMES
Member of Tiro Lodge, No. 688
I. O. O. F.
TIRO, OHIO

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No. 1

KING DAVID'S SIN

ACT I. DAVID ANOINTED.

(Enter Samuel, the prophet. Speaking to himself.) Why need I fear the anger of King Saul in this matter? Hath not God appointeth unto me this mission and declared me, Samuel, son of Elkanah, his prophet? Did he not say unto me, "Fill thine horn with oil, and go to Jesse the Bethlehem-ite; for I have provided me a king among his sons?" Therefore am I come to the house of Jesse. I am even now at the door.

(Knocks at door of clothes room. Jesse answers the summons.)

JESSE. Who art thou?

PROPHET. I am Samuel, the prophet. Peace be to thee and to thy household.

JESSE. (trembling with fear.) What. Samuel, prophet in Israel and greater than kings. Why comest thou hither?

SAMUEL. I come in peace to anoint with oil the future king of Israel. Behold God hath said to me, "Fill thine horn with oil, and go to Jesse the Bethlehem-ite; for I have provided me a king among his sons."

JESSE. (surprise.) A king among my sons. It cannot be. We are but a humble family. Surely it cannot be.

SAMUEL. It is even so for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Oh Jesse, most honored of all Israel's fathers, make haste, sanctify thyself and thy sons, and cause them to stand before me. (Exit Jesse and Samuel retreats to altar in center of floor.) (Re-enter Jesse conducting Eliab whom he introduces to Samuel.)

JESSE. Eliab, my first-born.

SAMUEL. (gazing at Eliab.) Surely the Lord's anointed is before me. But (on second thought and to himself) I dare not judge by his countenance or by the height of his stature: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. (To Jesse.) The Lord hath not chosen this. (Eliab takes stand behind Samuel, while Jesse returns and conducts Abinadab.)

JESSE. (to Samuel.) Abinadab.

SAMUEL. Neither hath the Lord chosen this. (Adab takes stand with Eliab while Jesse returns and brings Shammah.)

JESSE. Shammah.

SAMUEL. Neither hath the Lord chosen this. (Shammah stands with Eliab, while Jesse brings Nethaneel, Raddai and Ozem whom he introduces by name.)

SAMUEL. The Lord hath not chosen these. (They take stand with other brothers behind prophet and Samuel speaks to Jesse.)

SAMUEL. (Surprised and disappointed.) Are here all thy children?

JESSE. There remaineth yet the youngest and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.

SAMUEL. Send and fetch him: For we will not sit down till he come hither.

(Jesse summons David and D. enters in shepherd's garb, running and kneels to Jesse.) Thy blessing, my father. (Rising.) Peace be with thee, stranger. (To Jesse.) Dids't thou call me father?

JESSE. The Lord hath commissioned Samuel to anoint thee king over Israel, my son, David.

DAVID. (starting back in amazement.) It cannot be, my father. I am no prince, but only a shepherd lad. (Kneeling to Samuel.) And who am I that I should stand before Samuel, the prophet?

SAMUEL. Behold, the voice of the Lord doth say to me, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." (Samuel anoints David and continues speaking.) God hath chosen thee and I have anointed thee king over Israel, and it shall surely come to pass. Keep thy heart with all diligence, be thou circumspect in all thy doings, and upright in all thy ways that the Lord may have thee and approve thee in honor, in wisdom, in chastity and in love.

(Exit Samuel to ante-room. Jesse lifts David to feet and conducts him to clothes-room while the other brothers follow dejectedly and shamefacedly.)

SAMUEL. (Departing.) I go. Peace be with thee, Jesse; with thy sons and with all thy house.

ACT II. DAVID—THE GOOD KING.

(Herald enters from ante-room, proceeds to center of floor and addresses assemblage.)

HERALD. Behold, the king cometh. O ye men of Israel, prepare to receive your king. (Enter king, attended by guards and followed by retinue. Proceeds to throne where all assume their positions. All standing. Herald from middle of floor addresses king.)

HERALD. Most amiable and gracious king, the anointed of the Lord, how excellent is thy name and how great is thy fame among all the people.

GUARDS and RETINUE. Hail to the king of Israel.

HERALD. O king, upright in character, devoted in worship, just in all thy judgments, we greet thee.

GUARDS and RETINUE. Hail to the king of Israel.

HERALD. O king, slayer of Goliath, Saviour of Israel, conqueror of all our enemies, victorious in all thy battles,—Philistia, Moab and Syria, so long thorns in the flesh of thy people, trouble us no more: We praise thee.

GUARDS and RETINUE. Hail to the king of Israel.

HERALD, GUARDS and RETINUE. (Kneeling). All hail to David, king of Israel. (All sit in their positions.)

HERALD. Hear ye. Hear ye. By direction of his imperial majesty, David, king of Israel, I declare the king's court now opened. All who must needs commune with him, draw nigh and he will hear thee.

DAVID. Most eminent counselor, I would speak with thee.

COUNSELOR. (Saluting.) I am at thy service. O king.

DAVID. Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

COUNSELOR. There is a servant of the house of Saul whose name is Ziba. He may be able to inform thee.

DAVID. I will enquire of him. Herald, bring Ziba unto the king.

HERALD. (Saluting). I will, O king. (Exit Herald to ante-room. Enter Herald and Ziba. Ziba kneels at center of floor.)

DAVID. Who art thou?

ZIBA. I am Ziba, servant of the house of Saul.

DAVID. Rise up and stand before me. (Ziba approaches king.) Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him?

ZIBA. Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

DAVID. Where is he?

ZIBA. Behold he is in the house of Macher, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

DAVID. Ziba, conduct my counsellor and two of my guards to the house of Machir, son of Ammiel in Lodebar and bring Jonathan's son unto the king.

(Exit Ziba, counsellor and guards to clothes-room.)

HERALD. (at ante-room door his station.) Nathan, prophet in Israel, comes to visit the king.

DAVID. Usher Nathan, the prophet, into the presence of the king. (Herald admits Nathan, conducts him to center of floor. David descends throne to meet Nathan, and kneels as prophet approaches.)

NATHAN. Arise most noble David, ascend thy throne, and resume thy position. (David does so.) 'O king, God hath honored thee above all men, for thou hast proven thyself a man after his own heart. Thine enemies have vanished before thine approach as darkness fleeth before the light, or as the clouds disappear in the heavens. The boundaries of thy kingdom have been extended to the Euphrates river on the east and to the great sea on the west, the lands of thine enemies hath become thine own and many nations pay tribute unto thee. God hath approved thee and established thee on thy throne and made thy name great in all the world. For the sincerity of thy worship of Jehovah, for the uprightness of thy character—a good example unto thy people—and for the wisdom and justice of thy dealings with men, both heaven and earth commend thee.

(Enter Ziba, counsellor, guards and Mephibosheth from clothes-room. Advance to center of floor and counsellor speaks.)

COUNSELLOR. O king, we bring to thee Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan. (Mephibosheth kneels.)

DAVID. Mephibosheth.

MEPHIBOSHETH. Behold thy servant.

DAVID. Fear not: for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father: and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

MEPHIBOSHETH. What is thy servant, that thou should'st look upon such a dead dog as I am?

DAVID. Ziba.

ZIBA. Thy servant heareth, O king.

DAVID. I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. Thou therefore and thy sons and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth shall eat bread always at my table.

ZIBA. It shall be as thou hast said, O king. (David descends throne, lifts Mephibosheth to his feet, and taking Mephibosheth's hand lays other hand on Mephibosheth's shoulder and speaks.)

DAVID. As I loved thy father Jonathan, so I will love thee. (Nathan approaches, lays one hand on David's shoulder, other on Mephibosheth's head and speaks.)

NATHAN. Mephibosheth, my son, prove thyself worthy of the favor of one whom all men delight to honor, and preserve in honor and in uprightness the name of Jonathan thy father before all the people. And may this friendship between thee two, be even as was that pledge which knit together in brotherhood the souls of Jonathan, the Prince, and David, the Lord's anointed.

DAVID. (to counsellor.) Array him as a Prince in Israel and conduct him to my house.

(Exit Counsellor, Ziba, Mephibosheth to clothes-room.)

NATHAN. (to David.) I too must needs go. May heaven bless thee and prosper thee, O David.

DAVID. Peace be with thee, O Nathan. Farewell.

(Exit Nathan to ante-room. David ascends throne.)

DAVID. Herald, the king's court is adjourned. Perform the duty of your office.

HERALD. Ho, ye men of Israel. The king cometh this way. Make ready to receive your king.

(Exit David and attendants to ante-room.)

ACT III. DAVID'S SIN. PART I.

(Enter right and left supporters to David from ante-room. Approach throne from opposite sides. Right S. arrives at throne ahead of Left S. who walks slowly and dejectedly.)

RIGHT SUPPORTER. Why art thou so sad of countenance and so heavy of heart, noble sir?

LEFT S. The king of Israel hath sinned grievously.

RIGHT S. How hath the king sinned?

LEFT S. He hath committed adultery with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, the Hittite.

RIGHT S. Consider well what thou sayest. How knowest thou this thing? (Above spoken fiercely.)

LEFT S. Is she not even now with David in the king's house?

RIGHT S. Alas, the king hath sinned. Woe is Israel. Him whom God hath exalted to heaven hath in an evil hour cast himself down to hell. Doubly grievous is the sin of a righteous man; and how terrible is the

fall of him whom the Lord hath lifted to high places. (Enter Herald who advances to center of floor and speaks.)

HERALD. Behold the king cometh. O ye men of Israel, prepare to receive your king.

(Enter king and attendants. Proceed to throne where all stand at their respective stations. Herald and attendants kneel.)

HERALD and ATTENDANTS. All hail to David, king of Israel.

(All rise and sit in their positions.)

DAVID. (Speaking to himself.) Uriah is a man of noble spirit, a mighty man of war, and a faithful servant unto me. I have wronged him—but who shall stand between the king and his desire? Besides, I have started in this affair; I cannot now turn back; I must proceed to the end of it. I will send this note to Joab. "Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die." (To messenger.) Let my messenger stand before me.

MESSENGER. Behold thy servant, O king.

DAVID. Doth not Joab command my army at the seige of Rabbah?

MESSENGER. It is as thou sayest.

DAVID. Convey this message to him in haste. Remain with him until the battle is ended and bear to me Joab's report.

(Exit messenger.)

DAVID. Let my harper come before me and play me music upon his harp.

(Musician kneels before David and plays upon instrument.)

(Enter messenger. Advances, kneels before king and speaks.)

MESSENGER. A message for thee from Joab, O king.

DAVID. Bring it to me. (he reads.) "Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even to the centering of the gate. And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." (To himself.) It is well. No obstacle now stands between me and the object upon which I have set my heart. (To messenger.) Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, let not this thing displease thee: make thy battle more strong against the city and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

(Exit messenger.) (Knocking on door. Herald responds.)

HERALD. Nathan, prophet in Israel, desires to commune with the king.

DAVID. (sullenly.) Bring him before the king.

(Nathan enters and stands before David who remains seated.)

NATHAN. There were two men in one city; the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up, and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the way-faring man that was come unto

him; but he took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

DAVID. (very angry.) As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb four-fold, because he did this thing.

NATHAN. Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house, because thou hast despised me. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house.

DAVID. I have sinned against the Lord.

NATHAN. Thou hast tried thine own case, condemned thine own self, and judged thyself worthy of death. But, the Lord hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

(Exit Nathan.)

DAVID. (to himself.) "The sword shall not depart out of thine house. I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house. The child shall surely die." It is a stern sentence the Lord hath passed upon me. But great was mine iniquity and great must needs be the penalty attached to it. God is a just God. What I have done cannot be undone; but what I can do I will do. I will in everything be a husband unto Bathsheba, a father unto my children, a king unto my people and the servant of the Most High.

(Herald answers summons at door and speaks to king.)

HERALD. A messenger from the king's house-hold.

DAVID. Let him see the king.

(Enter messenger in haste—approaches and kneels.)

MESSENGER. The child of Bathsheba and David hath taken suddenly sick. The physicians of the royal household have declared his case hopeless.

(Shocked.)

DAVID. (to messenger.) Thou art excused from the king's presence. (King paces throne.) (To attendants.) Let every man go out from my presence. (They hesitate.) Wait not on the order of your going, but go at once.

(Exit attendants—save Herald who keeps the door.)

DAVID. The words of the prophet have indeed come to pass. How great must have been my sin to bring upon me from the Lord suffering so intense. If this be only the beginning of my troubles what will the end thereof be? (Comes to a decision.) I will gird my loins with sack-cloth; will wear sack-cloth upon my head; will humbly bow myself to the earth, and will fast and pray: for, peradventure, God's mercy

will outweigh his judgment, and he will yet spare the child. (David descends throne, puts off crown and robes, girds himself with sackcloth, etc., 1st. kneels, 2nd. sits, 3rd. kneels with face to floor and 4th. falls prone upon the floor.) (Enter a counsellor and speaks to David.)

COUNSELLOR. O David, all night hast thou lain prone upon the earth. Arise, wash thyself and eat. Behold we have prepared thy morning meal and provided for thee savoury food and thy favorite dishes.

DAVID. Disturb me not, my friend. What is food and sleep to me when I have sinned against God and my child is dying in consequence of my deed. Gladly would I perish here, if by so doing I could atone for my sin and save my child. (Exit counsellor, enter another.)

COUNSELLOR. O king, two nights and days hast thou lain upon the earth and hath neither eaten nor slept. Thou art weary and famished. Arise and partake of the food which we have prepared for thee.

DAVID. Hunger were a pleasant sensation if by starving I could undo what I have done. I will not hearken unto thee. (Exit counsellor and enter 2 supporters.)

SUPPORTERS. Give ear unto us O king and hearken unto our voice. Jacob is waging successful war against Rabbah and the affairs of Israel require thy attention.

DAVID. I am engaged in a greater battle than that. The king's sin is a matter of greater consequence than the taking of a city.

SUPPORTER. (other one.) Behold, O king, full five days hast thou been here in this position. Is there aught we can do for thee?

DAVID. Man is helpless to aid me.

SUPPORTER. Shall we not call the king's musician and bid him play to soothe the troubled spirits of the king?

DAVID. Music cannot mend a broken heart and cleanse a guilty soul.

SUPPORTER. Shall we not send for Nathan, the prophet, that he might counsel thee and comfort thee.

DAVID. Nay. This is a matter between God and me, and here I shall remain until this matter hath been settled, or death hath ended my sufferings.

1st. SUPPORTER. Then we will remain with thee.

(They take positions by David. Enter messenger excited, rushes past Herald who tries to stop him, hurries toward David, but is met by supporters who stop him and enquire his errand.)

SUPPORTER. What is thine errand?

MESSENGER. The king's child is dead.

SUPPORTERS. Speak softly, that the king might not hear thee. Behold while the child was yet alive, we speak unto him, and for seven days he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

(David seeing them whispering, perceives the truth and speaks.)

DAVID. Is the child dead?

SUPPORTER. He is dead.

DAVID. I will then arise, wash and anoint myself, change my garments and come into the house of the Lord to worship him; after

which, I will eat food in mine own house.

SUPPORTER. What is this thing that thou hast done? Thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child is dead, thou dost rise and eat bread.

DAVID. While the child was yet alive I fasted and wept; for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious unto me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

(Exit David supported by supporters and followed by others.)

PART II.

(Enter Herald, advances to center of floor and speaks.)

HERALD. Behold the king cometh. O ye men of Israel prepare to receive your king.

(Enter David and attendants: who acclaim him kneeling.)

HERALD and ATTENDANTS. All hail to David, king of Israel.

(All assume their stations.)

HERALD. (having answered summons.) A messenger who carries a message to the king.

DAVID. Admit him to the presence of the king.

(Enter messenger who salutes king and speaks.)

MESSENGER. Absalom, thy son, hath killed Amnon, thy son, with the sword; because Amnon hath betrayed Tamar, Absalom's sister; and Absalom hath fled.

DAVID. (messenger departs.) Did not the prophet also say unto me, "The sword shall never depart from thine house;" and hath it not come to pass? Alas, what confusion I have wrought upon mine own household. Mine anger will burn and wax exceeding hot against Absalom until it hath consumed him—Nay, I cannot do ought to harm the boy. Though he hath sinned, yet is he my son and I love him. I must needs forgive him this wrong, even as I pray God to forgive me my transgression. (Enter Herald who speaks.)

HERALD. A messenger who conveys news to the king.

DAVID. Admit him to the presence of the king.

(Enter messenger who salutes king and speaks.)

MESSENGER. Absalom thy son hath established himself at Hebron as king of Israel, and the hearts of the men of Israel are (gone) after Absalom.

DAVID. Go thou and send Joab, captain of the king's army, unto me. I will speak with him about this matter.

(Exit messenger. Herald answers summons and admits Joab.)

(Joab approaches king and salutes. King addresses Joab.)

DAVID. Knowest thou aught about this report that Absalom hath established himself at Hebron, and declared himself king of Israel?

JOAB. It is true, my Lord the king; and the men of Israel are flocking to his standard.

(O that I had not sinned. Alas, that God took me from the sheep cote and my father's house.)

DAVID. Woe is David. Did not Nathan, the servant of God, also

say, "I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house?" and it is not come to pass this day? (To Joab.) What wouldst thou advise me to do? I am unnerved and cannot think.

JOAB. Thou art safer in flight than in Jerusalem. O king.

DAVID. Whither shall we go—myself, my wives and little ones?

JOAB. We will hide thee in the land beyond Jordan and then return to fight and destroy this usurper.

DAVID. As thou sayest, so be it. All who are on my side, let them come after me.

(David departs, attended by two supporters, two others, and his entire guard. Others remain seated and as king departs speak.)

OTHER ATTENDANTS. We would have Absalom rule over us. Long live Absalom, king of Israel and of Judah.

DAVID. Even Judah hath reviled me, and Jerusalem hath welcomed the usurper.

(David and attendants advance slowly to other end of room. Midway, from opposite side of room Shimei curses David and stones him. Guards cover David with their shields.)

SHIMEI. Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: the Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

GUARD. (not Joab.) Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over I pray thee, and take off his head.

DAVID. Behold my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone and let him curse—for the Lord hath said unto him, curse David. No greater insult can come to the king than to be cursed by a peasant. Certainly the Lord can humble me no lower and it may be the Lord will requite me good for his cursing this day.

(They proceed to Vice Grand's station and take positions there.) (Joab, Abishai and Ittai stand before David while back of them is lined up the rest of the guard.)

JOAB. Now that thou and thy family are safe, Ittai, Abishai and thy servant Joab will lead thine army against Absalom.

DAVID. I will surely go forth with you myself.

JOAB. Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us; but now thou art worth 10,000 of us.

DAVID. What seemeth you best I will do. Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.

(Exit guard to ante-room.) (One of attendants as watchman speaks.)

WATCHMAN. Behold I see a man running alone.

DAVID. If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth.

WATCHMAN. Behold, another man running alone.

DAVID. He also bringeth tidings.

WATCHMAN. Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz, son of Zadok.

DAVID. He is a good man and cometh with good tidings.

(Enter Ahimaaz who kneels before king and speaks.)

AHIMAAZ. All is well. Blessed be the Lord thy God which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

DAVID. Is the young man Absalom safe?

AHIMAAZ. When Joab sent the king's servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

DAVID. Turn aside and stand here. (Ahimaaz obeys.)

(Enter Cushie another messenger—kneels and speaks.)

CUSHI. Tidings, my lord the king: for the Lord hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

DAVID. Is the young man Absalom safe?

CUSHI. The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

(Enter Joab and guards who array themselves before David.)

(David falls upon knees at altar before him and speaks.)

DAVID. O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom. Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son. O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son.

JOAB. (advancing and angry.) Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives in that thou lovest thine enemies and hatest thy friends; for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died, then it had pleased thee well. Now therefore arise, go forth and speak comfortably unto thy servants; for I swear, if thou wilt not go forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night; and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil which befell thee from thy youth until now.

(The king arises and is seated. Guards take up position before him. Approach a messenger from other end of room.)

MESSENGER. The king saved us out of the hands of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hands of the Philistines, and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. And Absalom whom we anointed over us is dead in battle. Judah and all Israel saith, return thou, and all thy servants.

DAVID. I will return. (Messenger returns.)

(David attended by guards, etc., advances to other end of room. Are met by attendants who did not follow him, who kneel on both sides as he approaches and speak.)

ATTENDANTS. All hail to David, the Lord's anointed.

(David on throne. All attendants kneel and speak.)

ATTENDANTS. All hail to David, king of Israel.

(All resume positions.)

PART III.

Draw curtain here.

(Next scene shows king an old man.)

(Herald answering summons, advances and speaks.)

HERALD. Nathan the prophet desires to speak with the king.

DAVID. Admit him to the presence of the king.

(Enter Nathan, advances toward David and speaks.)

NATHAN. My lord O king hast thou said, "Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit up my throne?" For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host and the priest; and behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. But me, even me thy servant and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.

DAVID. Even in mine old age the judgment of the Lord, declared by thine own lips in the days of my strength, followeth hard after me, and mine own household even yet riseth up against me to pervert my plans. Solomon shall be king in my stead and shall rule over Israel. Take ye Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and cause Solomon to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon, and anoint him there king over Israel, and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save King Solomon. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne.

(Exit Nathan. Enter Nathan with Solomon.)

(Solomon kneels at center of floor. David speaks.)

DAVID. Come hither my son. (Solomon approaches throne and kneels at David's feet.)

DAVID. Solomon, my son, I go the way of all the earth, be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments and his judgments, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whither soever thou turnest thyself, that the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, if thy children take heed to thy way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee, said he, a man on the throne of Israel. Arise, my son, and stand upon thy feet. (David removes crown from his own head and crowns Solomon.) Ascend thy father's throne, O Solomon. (Solomon obeys.) Thou art now king over Israel and Judah in my stead.

ATTENDANTS. (kneeling.) Hail to Solomon king of Israel. (People stand. A counsellor speaks to Solomon.)

COUNSELLOR. As the Lord hath been with my Lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

ATTENDANTS. Amen. Long live king Solomon.

(Exit David, Solomon and attendants.)

THE END.

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